

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 NSC-10 ACDA-19 T-03 RSR-01 /126 W

----- 063852

R 151715 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6892

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDELMC

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1406

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BE

SUB: BELGIAN DEFENSE REFORMS- GOVERNMENT YIELDS ON  
DEFERMENTS

REF: BRUSSELS 575

1. THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE VANDE BOEYNANTS TOLD ME TODAY THAT THE PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE MOST CATEGORIES OF DEFERMENTS FROM MILITARY CONSCRIPTION WILL BE EXCISED FROM THE DEFENSE REFORM PACKAGE, WHICH NOW HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE DEFERMENT MEASURE HAS BEEN PUT IN ABEYANCE FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS, VANDEN BOEYNANTS SAID, IN A MOVE TO DEFEAT THE " CONSPIRACY" RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. IN A REFERENCE TO THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE TERMS OF CONSCRIPT SERVICE, VANDEN BOEYNANTS SAID GOB IS ALERT TO THE DANGER OF FALLOUT FROM THE DANISH DEFENSE REFORM PLAN.

2. COMMENT: I DO NOT TAKE VANDEN BOEYNANT' S LAST REMARK TO  
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INDICATE ANY CHANGE IN BELGIAN PLANS, AND I EXPECT THE  
BELGIANS TO REQUEST NATO CONSULTATIONS AS PLEDGED ON SEVERAL  
OCCASIONS. WITH RESPECT TO THE DEFERMENT POLICY, I SUSPECT  
THAT VANDEN BOEYNANTS WAS FIRMLY OVERRULED IN THE GOVERN-  
MENT, WHICH COULD NOT HAVE REMAINED UNIMPRESSED IN THE FACE  
OF THE LARGE AND REPEATED DEMONSTRATIONS OF LATE JANUARY AND  
EARLY FEBRUARY.

STRAUSZ- HUPE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BRUSSE01406  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 BRUSSELS 575  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <06-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971204  
**Subject:** BELGIAN DEFENSE REFORMS- GOVERNMENT YIELDS ON DEFERMENTS  
**TAGS:** MARR, BE  
**To:** BONN  
EUR  
MC  
NATO BRUSSELS  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
THE HAGUE  
USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

WASHDC

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005